

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1528**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

***Tom Sannicandro***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying:

An Act Relative to Down Syndrome.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Tom Sannicandro*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*7th Middlesex*

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1528**

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By Mr. Sannicandro of Ashland, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1528) of Tom Sannicandro relative to Down Syndrome genetic test results. Public Health.

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act Relative to Down Syndrome.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 An act relative to Down syndrome genetic test results.

2 SECTION 1. Chapter 111 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008 Official  
3 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 70G the following section:-

4 Section 70H.

5 (a) For the purposes of this section, the term “Down syndrome” shall mean a  
6 chromosomal condition caused by an error in cell division that results in the presence of an extra  
7 whole or partial copy of chromosome 21. Any facility, as defined in section 70E, physician,  
8 health care provider, nurse midwife or genetic counselor who renders prenatal care, postnatal  
9 care or genetic counseling, upon receipt of a positive test result from a test for Down syndrome,  
10 shall be able to provide the expectant or new parent with information provided by the department  
11 under subsection (b).

12 (b) the department shall make available to any person who renders prenatal care,  
13 postnatal care or genetic counseling of parents who receive a prenatal or postnatal diagnosis of  
14 Down syndrome the following: (1) up-to-date, evidence-based, written information about Down  
15 syndrome that has been reviewed by medical experts and national Down syndrome  
16 organizations. The written information should include physical, developmental, educational, and  
17 psychosocial outcomes, life expectancy, clinical course, and intellectual and functional  
18 development and treatment options; and (2) contact information regarding First Call programs  
19 and support services, including information hotlines specific to Down syndrome, resource  
20 centers or clearinghouses, national and local Down syndrome organizations such as the  
21 Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress, and other education and support programs. The  
22 department may also make such information available to any other person who has received a  
23 positive test result from a test for Down syndrome.

24 (c) Information provided under this section shall be culturally and linguistically  
25 appropriate as needed by women receiving a positive prenatal diagnosis or the family of a child  
26 receiving a postnatal diagnosis of Down syndrome;

27 (d) Nothing in this section shall limit the rights of any person under section 70G.